

Letters

To the Editor

I write to ask if you can provide me with information on head green-keeping positions in the USA.

Currently I am a deputy head greenkeeper at Brookmans Park, a position I've held for the past 14 months, previously having held the post of assistant greenkeeper at Finchley for 5 years. I play golf and have a handicap of 14.

I attended a City and Guilds College course for 3 years and passed all the examinations I took, I've been a member of both EIGGA and BIGGA over seven years and recently became a committee member of the London section.

The idea of moving to the USA as a head greenkeeper is one that appeals and when I travel on holiday to Florida in September I plan to take along my CV and references.

I would be most grateful for any advice you can offer.

BARRY MOGGRIDGE
Brookmans Park Golf Club.

● **Barry's letter is typical of many such requests received, and the information I can offer is regrettably not encouraging. Obtaining the necessary 'green card', the permit essential to enable a person to take up employment in the USA, is very difficult indeed. Restrictions are such that a prospective employer/sponsor must prove to US officials that a position cannot be filled by an American citizen. As a good example, a Japanese chef might obtain entry to prepare food for an exclusively Japanese restaurant if no Japanese/American resident can be found, but his sponsor must prove that all other sources have been explored and found wanting. Such is the competition amongst US college educated graduates for work in the American turfgrass industry that few, if any, foreign nationals are ever considered.**

To Neil Thomas

On behalf of the Executive Committee of The Golf Society of Great Britain I am pleased to address this letter to your Association, along with an accompanying cheque for £250.00

The Golf Society is pursuing its aim of supporting amateur golf and in this pursuit the Executive Committee were mindful that the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association is a comparatively new body and one which is most deserving of all possible help and encouragement.

The Golf Society of Great Britain wishes your Association well and trusts that this contribution may help in some small way.

E J DRUMMOND
Secretary, GSGB

● **The Golf Society of Great Britain, founded in 1955 by the late Sir Aynsley Bridgland of Princes Golf Club, aims to promote goodwill and further the interests of amateur golf. It is non-profit making and donates large sums to golf's governing bodies towards international match expenses.**

To Neil Thomas

I write to thank you and your staff for organising such a marvellous programme of events at Harrogate in January. The time spent in the presence of Jim Beard, his turfgrass manual and 850 slides, was a major learning experience and not to be missed. I hope we can book him for a follow-up workshop.

The seminars got off to a flying start with Bobbie Gee, who I'm sure made us all take a retrospective look at ourselves. The follow-up also provided many interesting and varied presentations and my only regret was in seeing the theatre so sparsely attended, especially as our overseas speakers had travelled against advice due to the Gulf War.

I am sure that as word spreads on the quality of these events numbers will increase, and I urge every delegate to broadcast the fact and recommend to every member and club official the importance of attending.

May I also congratulate BIGGA on producing such a vastly improved magazine in such a short space of time. The contents easily lived up to the glossy cover - long may it continue.

DAVID J WOOD
Holtye Golf Club

Dates announced for Iseki-BIGGA Golf Championships

The 1991 ISEKI Championships are underway, with the following section and regional competition dates scheduled:

SCOTTISH REGION

East	Baberton Golf Club	April 9th
West	Lenzie Golf Club	April 18th
Central	Burntisland Golf Club	April 23rd
Ayrshire	Irving Bogside Golf Club	May 20th
North	Nairn West Golf Club	May 16th

SCOTTISH REGIONAL FINAL
FRASERBURGH GOLF CLUB, MAY 28TH

NORTHERN REGION

Sheffield	Coxmoor Golf Club	April 3rd
Cleveland	Middlesbrough Municipal	April 24th
Northern	Wetherby Golf Club	April 24th
North East	Bamburgh Castle Golf Club	April 25th
North West	Saddleworth Golf Club	May 15th

NORTHERN REGIONAL FINAL
KESWICK GOLF CLUB, JUNE 19TH

MIDLAND SECTION

Midland	Kings Norton Golf Club	April 8th
Mid Anglia	Northampton County Golf Club	April 17th
East of England	Blankney Golf Club	May 13th
East Midlands	Kibworth Golf Club	May 16th
Berks/Bucks/Oxon	Goring and Streetley	May 22nd

MIDLAND REGIONAL FINAL
BELTON PARK GOLF CLUB, JUNE 24TH

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGION

South Coast	Royal Winchester Golf Club	December 5th
Devon and Cornwall	East Devon Golf Club	March 14th
South Wales	Wenvoe Castle Golf Club	April 11th
South West	Bristol and Clifton Golf Club	April 25th
North Wales	Abergele and Pensarn Golf Club	May 23rd

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES FINAL
TREDEGAR PARK, JULY 27TH

SOUTH EAST REGION

Surrey	Richmond Golf Club	April 11th
East Anglia	Channels Golf Club	April 16th
Sussex	Neville Golf Club	April 17th
London	Hadley Wood Golf Club	April 22nd
Kent	Sittingbourne Golf Club	May 14th

SOUTH EAST FINAL
HAM MANOR GOLF CLUB, JULY 3RD

IRELAND

Northern	Portstewart Golf Club	May 21st
Southern	Forrest Little Golf Club	May 23rd

The Grand Final of the Iseki Tournament will be held at Hillside Golf Club on Thursday September 12th, 1991.

■ **The 120th Open Championship will be held at the Royal Birkdale Golf Club, Southport from July 18th - 21st 1991, with Head Greenkeeper Tom O'Brien in control of the course preparation.**

Members wishing to be considered for the BIGGA Green-keeping Support Team should forward their names and addresses to Headquarters as soon as possible.

Preference will be given to those who are available for a period which begins on Wednesday afternoon on July 17th and finishes on Sunday evening, July 21st.

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For more details contact Richard Lewis on 0904 624872 or write to PORTASTOR PRODUCTS (4/K017/P) PORTASILO Ltd. YORK, YO3 9PR. FAX 0904 611760

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Subscriptions to BIGGA - how much to pay

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS 1991

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper.....	£40.00
Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper	£37.00
* First Assistant/Assistant Greenkeeper	£34.00
20 Years of Age or Under	£22.00
Associate/Company	£40.00 (includes 1 year's subscription to 'Greenkeeper International')
Associate	£18.00 (without magazine)
Corporate	£500.00 maximum

With the exception of Associate members paying £18 all members as part of their membership packages will receive 'Greenkeeper International' magazine monthly. All new members will receive an Association tie.

Lady members joining the £18 Associate category will receive a headscarf and stickpin as part of their membership package.

Corporate members additionally will receive an annual plaque in recognition of their support of BIGGA and the greenkeeping profession.

INTERNATIONAL

All Greenkeeping Staff	£48.00
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* NB The First Assistant is a post designed to recognise a third-in-charge where appropriate to the size of the Club. In cases where the First Assistant is the recognised Deputy, the Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper subscription rate should apply.

NEW FOR 1991

THE BIGGA PERSONAL PENSION PLAN

BIGGA is pleased to announce that with immediate effect, the minimum premium for the BIGGA Personal Pension Plan is reduced to only £15 per month for all greenkeepers. So now you can take full advantage of the tremendous benefits that the plan offers for a lower monthly outlay.

NEW

THE BIGGA MORTGAGE SERVICE

BIGGA is pleased to announce a new service for all members, which will make it easier for greenkeepers to secure the best mortgage offer when they are either buying a new house or refinancing the purchase of their existing property. The Association is well aware of the exceptional demands placed upon its members because of the nature of their work. Greenkeepers do not always have the time to explore all the mortgage possibilities available.

NOW is the time to find out more. Please complete the form below and post to:
Executive Director, BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF

- Tick box
1. I will soon be/am in the process of buying a house. Please send me details of the new BIGGA Mortgage Service.....
 2. I already pay for a mortgage on my house, but I wish to know if any better mortgage arrangements are available to me.....
 3. I am/am not in a Golf Club Pension Scheme. Please send me details of the new 1991 BIGGA Pension Plan

Name

Golf Club and Job Title

Home Address

Post Code

Tel. No. (Work)..... (Home)



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